

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5307

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO UN

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO US REVIEW OF BEHAVIOR OF AID RECIPIENTS

REF: 75 BELGRADE 3799

1. ELEMENTS OF YUGOSLAV PRESS HAVE NOTED CREATION OF STATE DEPARTMENT UNIT TO EVALUATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE LIGHT OF RECIPIENTS' BEHAVIOR ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO U.S. AFTER FACTUAL REPORTS OF FORMATION OF NEW OFFICE, ONLY TABLOID "VECERNJE NOVOSTI" HAS CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT. UNTIL NOW "TANJUG" WIRE STORY ON OFFICE FILED BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT VELIMIR BUDIMIR HAS NOT BEEN PRINTED IN MAJOR BELGRADE DAILIES, BUT DID APPEAR IN SARAJEVO'S "OSLOBODJENJE".

2. "NOVOSTI" EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THREAT" EXPRESSES SURPRISE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REVERT TO SUCH "PRESSURE AND BLACKMAIL". "THE AMERICANS CANNOT EXPECT COUNTRIES WHICH ENJOY THEIR AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE TO ACCEPT THIS BLACKMAIL CASUALLY. THE UNITED STATES APPARENTLY KEEPS BELIEVING THAT PRESTIGE CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH OBSOLETE METHODS OF FORCE...."

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3. BUDIMIR FINDS ROOTS OF NEW POLICY IN CONSERVATIVE

VIEWS OF US LEADERS AND ABSENCE OF FULLY DEFINED ATTITUDE TOWARD LDC'S. HE EXPECTS USE OF PRESSURE TO PROVE INEFFECTIVE, AS IT DID IN THE CASE OF OPEC. HE CONCLUDES THAT THE NEW POLICY IS INCONSISTENT BECAUSE IT WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO ALL OPPONENTS OF US INTERESTS, BUT MAINLY AGAINST THE WEAKEST. HE CITES EGYPT AND NIGERIA AS COUNTRIES WHICH WILL PROBABLY ESCAPE SANCTIONS AND TANZANIA AND GUYANA AS COUNTRIES AGAINST WHICH MEASURES ARE ALREADY BEING TAKEN. BUDIMIR DOES NOT EXPECT NEW POLICY TO ENDURE BECAUSE IT VIOLATES MODERN VIEWS OF CORRECT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH ARE GRADUALLY MAKING THEIR WAY INTO THE UNITED STATES MENTALITY".

4. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO CREATION OF NEW UNIT IN DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MUTED. IN ADDITION TO LACK OF WIDE-SPREAD PRESS COVERAGE AND FOLLOW-UP ARTICLES ON BUDIMIR STORY, FSFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SEKULIC FAILED TO RAISE MATTER WITH EMBOFFS DURING LENGTHY ROUNDUP ON CIEC, UNCTAD, COLOMBO CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WHATEVER YUGOSLAV VIEW OR PERCEPTION OF OUR ACTION, WE REITERATE OUR CAUTION EXPRESSED EARLIER THAT U.S. SHOULD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID OVERT ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT NON-ALIGNED WHILE CONTINUING IN OTHER WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE (SEE REFTTEL). SWEITZER

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